

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 299311 TOSEC 320105

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CARACAS NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO USDEL SECRETARY PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 299311 TOSEC 320105

NODIS

EYES ONLY FOR THE AMBASSADOR FROM SHLAUDEMAN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ENRG, VE

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT'S MEETING WITH IRIBARREN

1. WE UNDERSTAND THE CARACAS PRESS IS CARRYING REPORTS THAT THE PRESIDENT MET WITH AMBASSADOR IRIBARREN TO DISCUSS THE ISSUE OF OIL PRICES. WE ALSO UNDERSTAND THAT YOU ARE BREAKFASTING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER ESCOVAR SALOM TOMORROW AT WHICH OCCASION THE REPORTED MEETING IS LIKELY TO COME UP.

2. DURING THE PRESENTATION OF CREDENTIALS ON NOVEMBER 18 THE PRESIDENT TOLD IRIBARREN THAT HE WISHED TO DISCUSS THE PROBLEM OF OIL PRICES PRIVATELY WITH THE NEW AMBASSADOR. THEY MET THE NEXT DAY ALONE AT THE WHITE HOUSE. THE PRESIDENT STRESSED THE HEAVY DAMAGE AN INCREASE AT THIS TIME WOULD DO TO THE ECONOMIES OF THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND URGED THAT ANY SUCH ACTION BE DEFERRED.

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3. THE FOREGOING IS FOR YOUR BACKGROUND SHOULD ESCOVAR

RAISE IT. YOU SHOULD REFRAIN FROM ANY PUBLIC CONFIRMATION OR COMMENT WITH RESPECT TO THE MEETING AND ASK THAT ESCOVAR DO THE SAME. YOU WILL ALSO WISH TO REITERATE TO THE FOREIGN MINISTER THE POINTS MADE BY THE PRESIDENT,

DRAWING ON HIS LETTER TO PEREZ AND THE OTHER GUIDANCE AVAILABLE TO YOU.

ROBINSON

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NNN

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